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1. Capomazza suggestion of restricted preliminary talks in January (which was informally communicated to Dept by Italian Embassy on November 22) forces USG rethinking on timing of negotiations.

ubtful that US and Italian delegations will be able begin full-scale negotiating session immediately after preliminary talks. If preliminary talks fruitful, both sides would probably need minimum two weeks to adjust positions to views exchanged in preliminary talks.

2. xFxxkxxdgexaxyxxxxxxxxxDepartment reluctant agree to preliminary Janua talks in Rome followed two weeks later by negotiating session in Rome. Therefore Dept thinking of xxx proposing that Capomazza come to Washington with his immediate advisors for preliminary session. Small USG group for such session would include key CAB officials. This could be followed by full negotiating session in Rome perhaps first half of February. Dept would hope definitive agreement could be reached in February session and GOI should be pressed to seek achieve this. However,

(3)

Drafted by:	Tel. Ext.	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:
E/OA:ECRodriguez:hme 11/23/66	8644	E/AN - Mr. Snowdon

Clearances:

E/OA - Mr. Bolster CAB - Mr. Watson TT - Mr. Loy AIS - Mr. Stabler

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if February session inconclusive, would still be possible hold second session in Washington before Agreement terminates.

3. Dept would appreciate soonest Embassy comments on above. Are there any reasons why Capomazza might refuse hold preliminary talks in Washington? If occasion arises, Embassy may indicate to Foreign Ministry Department's reaction to Capomazza's suggestion.

END

4. FYI Dept's thinking heavily influenced by budgetary considerations though we would not propose giving Italians this reason for our proposal. END FYI

END

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